

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 ITC-01 USIA-06 AGR-05 OIC-02 /107 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0273

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, CIEC,HGW

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT-GISCARD SUMMIT: COMMODITY POLICY

REF: BONN 11366

1. IN DISCUSSING GERMAN COMMODITY POLICY WITH
ECON/COMC'L MINISTER, MFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LAUTENSCHLAGER CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT CHANCELLOR
AND PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD FULL EXCHANGE ON COMMODITY
POLICY BUT DID NOT SUCCEED IN REACHING A COMMON
POSITION. THEY AGREED HOWEVER TO ESTABLISH A BILATERAL
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WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE WAYS FOR BRIDGING

FRANCO-GERMAN DIFFERENCES. LAUTENSCHLAGER AND ECONMIN ASST. SECRETARY STEEG WILL REPRESENT FRG IN THIS GROUP.

2. LAUTENSCHLAGER COMMENTED THAT AT THIS POINT COMMODITY POLICY CANNOT BE SIMPLY LEFT TO THE EXPERTS WITH THEIR DOCTRINAIRE VIEWS. FOR HIS PART HE DID NOT SEE HOW A FEW ADDITIONAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS COULD LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FREE MARKET ECONOMY. ONCE A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT IS INTERJECTED INTO THESE DISCUSSIONS, HE BELIEVES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT PRESENT FRANCO-GERMAN DIFFERENCES. HE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT FRENCH AND SEVERAL OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAVE WITH IMPUNITY TAKEN A MORE FORTHCOMING LINE TOWARDS THE IP OR OTHER G-77 OR UNCTAD PROPOSALS SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT THAT THE U.S. OR FRG WOULD VETO THESE PROPOSALS IN THE END. THE FRENCH, WHO HAVE ALWAYS SHIED AWAY FROM DISCUSSING SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS, HAVE THUS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE CAPITAL VIS-A-VIS THE LDCS AT OUR EXPENSE. LAUTENSCHLAGER THOUGHT THAT THIS NEW WORKING GROUP WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO CALL THE FRENCH BLUFF.

3. LAUTENSCHLAGER EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT G-8 SHOULD MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO REACH GENERAL CONSENSUS ON TREATING COMMODITY ISSUES, FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WILL HAVE A MUCH GREATER LEVERAGE IF THEY CAN AGREE ON COMMON NEGOTIATING POSITIONS IN CIEC AND OTHER FORA. LAUTENSCHLAGER ARGUED THAT A PRECONDITION FOR BUILDING THIS CONSENSUS IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON EC POSITION. IN HIS VIEW THIS CONSENSUS CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED IF FRG ABANDONS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE COMMON EC POSITION AND RELIES INSTEAD ONLY ON CLOSE COORDINATION WITH U.S. AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: THIS VIEW IS NOT SHARED BY FRAU STEEG AND OTHER ECONMIN OFFICIALS, SEE REFTTEL).
HILLENBRAND

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